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Literary Analysis

The Dangers of Wealth

Can the pursuit of wealth ever lead to true happiness, or does it always bring trouble? While money can help people succeed, focusing only on riches can lead to greed and disappointment. People who care too much about wealth often forget about the important things in life—family, friends, and joy. No matter how much they have, they always want more, and it never feels like enough. Wealth can give comfort and opportunities, but when it becomes the most important thing, it can cause problems like loneliness and mistrust. In the end, real happiness comes from love, kindness, and being grateful for what you already have.

Social inequality was a problem throughout the story between Kino, the doctor and the beggars. Each having a “class” or “spot” in the social ladder. “The news came early to the beggars in front of the church and made them giggle with pleasure for they, knew that there is no alms giver in the world like a poor man who is suddenly lucky” This quote shows that even those who understand poverty can still exclude others. The beggars, despite knowing hardship, were looked down upon and left out of conversations, showing how isolation

exists even among the poor. “This doctor was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved and robbed and despised Kino’s race and frightened it too, so that the indigenous came humbly at the door.” "This quote illustrates the power imbalance between the rich and the poor, how the rich can easily show dominance, leaving the less fortunate struggling.” The inequality shaped Kino’s life but greed is what made it harder and difficult.

The pearl brought greed upon Kino and his family, changed his entire persona and his way of thinking. Greed had consumed Kino’s identity. “For it is said that humans are never satisfied, that you give them one thing and they want something more. And this is said in disparagement, whereas it is one of the greatest talents, the species has and one that has made it superior to animals that are satisfied with what they have” This quote highlights how human desire never truly ends, especially when it comes to wealth. No matter how much someone has, the urge to gain more keeps going, showing how ambition and materialism shape people’s lives. ‘It is not good to want much. It sometimes drives luck away. You must want it just enough and you must be tactful with the gods or the gods.” This quote is talking about becoming obsessed with what you want. And how it can take away from what really matters such as family, happiness, and living in the moment.

Kino’s greed turns his fortune into ruin, revealing that true wealth lies in morality not material gain. "Every man suddenly became related to Kino's pearl, and Kino's pearl went into the dreams, the speculations, the schemes, the plans, the futures, the wishes, the needs, the lusts, the hungers, of everyone, and only one person stood in the way and that was Kino *so that he became curiously*

every man's enemy." This quote highlights how Kino's pearl is no longer just his—it has become everyone's obsession. People see it to fulfill their dreams, plans, and desires. But Kino stands between them and the pearl, making him the one obstacle to their ambitions. This shows how greed and desire can turn something valuable into a source of conflict. "Luck you see brings bitter friends" Wealth can create jealousy and break relationships. Kino's pearl makes people obsessed with their own desires, turning them against him. Steinbeck shows how greed leads to conflict and tragedy instead of prosperity.

Wealth can be a tool for success, but an obsession with money often leads to greed and unhappiness. In The Pearl, Steinbeck shows how unfair society can be. Kino, the doctor, and the beggars all have a place in the social system, and everyone is expected to stay in their spot. Even the beggars, who understand what it's like to be poor, still treat others differently. The doctor is an example of how the rich use their power to keep Kino's people struggling. While Kino's life is already difficult because of these unfair rules, his greed makes things even worse.

At first, the pearl seems like the best thing that has ever happened to Kino and his family. He thinks it will give them a better life, but soon, he starts focusing too much on it. He becomes more obsessed with protecting it, and his personality starts to change. Steinbeck points out that people always want more, even when they have enough. The more Kino thinks about the pearl, the more he loses sight of the things that really matter—his family, his happiness, and his safety. Instead of bringing him success, his greed makes the pearl dangerous, leading to terrible consequences. In the end, the story teaches that money isn't the most important thing—being a good person and keeping your values is what really matters.

The pearl also changes the way people treat Kino. At first, they see him as lucky, but soon, they become jealous and start thinking about how they can take the pearl for themselves. Kino suddenly becomes an enemy to people who were once his friends, because they all want a share of his wealth. Greed causes relationships to fall apart, proving that sudden fortune doesn't always lead to happiness—it often leads to trouble instead.

In the end, Kino realizes that the pearl has only brought him pain, and he loses everything that was truly important to him. Steinbeck uses his story to show that wealth can make people selfish and cruel, and that true happiness comes from love, family, and kindness—not from money. Money can change lives, but greed can ruin everything. In The Pearl, Kino finds a beautiful, valuable pearl that he believes will bring him and his family happiness and a better future. At first, the pearl feels like a great gift, offering hope and new possibilities. But as word spreads about Kino's discovery, people around him start to see the pearl as their own chance for fortune. Jealousy grows, and even those who once supported Kino begin to turn against him, wanting a share of his wealth.

Kino himself changes too. Instead of focusing on his family and their happiness, he becomes obsessed with protecting the pearl. He starts to see danger everywhere and pushes away the people who care about him. Steinbeck shows how greed can take over someone's thoughts and make them forget what really matters. Kino thinks the pearl will make his life better, but instead, it brings trouble, sadness, and danger. His relationships fall apart, and he loses the peace and joy he once had.

By the end of the story, Kino realizes that the pearl has only brought pain. He sees that money isn't what makes life meaningful—kindness, love, and family are far more valuable. Steinbeck's story

teaches that wealth can be tempting, but if a person lets greed take over, they risk losing everything that truly matters. Greed can turn fortune into destruction. While wealth can create opportunities, obsession with money leads to jealousy, broken relationships, and loss. True happiness isn't found in riches but in love, integrity, and the people who matter most. Those who chase wealth without balance risk losing everything that truly makes life meaningful.